

[Ostrander Ranch]

#19

AUG 22 1938 [19-G?]

FIELD NOTES Taken on Interviews

(Information given by a local carpenter who helped build the Ostrander house)

OSTRANDER RANCH

"I helped to construct the Ostrander house in 1883. John Avery, a brother of Mrs. Ostrander, Charlie Tuttle and Tom Hughes of Eden also helped. Avery lived with the Ostranders and shared in their business. I worked from early spring until December. I got my time over at the Loomis place and went to Mrs. Ostrander for my money. I had a good horse to ride home. Mrs. Ostrander refused to pay me in cash because she was afraid I would be robbed. She gave me only enough cash to buy a suit and gave me a draft for the remainder.

"Loomis and Ostrander had a wholesale grocery business in New York and many products which were used on the ranch bore their trade name on the labels.

"All the fancy woodwork in the house and most of the furniture in the house was made by hand.

"The Loomis barn cost \$13,900.00. Loomis had a small buggy with no top, drawn by two horses, with which he joined in the chase after antelope. The horses were well trained and were on the scene when the dogs caught their prey and were overtaken by the horsebackers. Old-Timers will remember the short, quick turns made by the horses and how Mr. Loomis knew exactly how to lean in order to balance the buggy. He was a grand sport. 2

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“Prominent guys from the city would often come down to Ostrander's house for all-night parties. One could see the bearded Jews; and high-up guys would carry in loads of hams, canned goods, fine liquors and wines for the party. We knew they were having a party and decided to pull one of our own in the Loomis barn. We loaded up with our drinks and food and early the next morning an old bearded Jew came in and searched our quarters for more drinks but didn't find any.

“I went back to the Ostrander place in [1885?] to do some more work and they were gone.”